1111 SW 16th Ave., Apt 156
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

March 22, 1977

Robert O. Goff
FOI/PA Officer
Office of Public Affairs
Department of the Treasury
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Mr. Goff:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 1977 and the enclosures in response to my Freedom of Information Act request relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. The documents you sent are quite helpful to my research and I appreciate them.

I am, however, a bit bewildered at certain aspects of your response and at the suggestion inherent therein that so many relevent and important records no longer exist.

As I read your letter, you seem to make specific response only to the numbered requests in my letter of January 17, 1977. However, my request was expressly not confined to those specific numbered requests but encompassed a much broader area, as described in the first paragraph of my Jan. 17 letter. Thus, I am uncertain whether assearch has been made to comply with my full request or merely to comply with the seven numbered "sub"-requests.

Additionally, your letter states that, regarding paragraphs 1,2,3,6, and 7 of my letter "the file search indicates that we do not currently maintain any information relating to the subject matter of your request." I am confused by the specification that you do not "currently" have such information, for I would certainly be interested to know if you ever had such information and, if so, when it was removed from the files and its subsequent disposition.

I press this request because it is a matter of great national and historical importance and it is hard to conceive that some sort of records were not maintained with regard to many, if not all of the matters raised in my letter of Jan. 17. For example, my requests numbered 2 and 3 related to Mr. Kelley's exhibition of certain autopsy photographs and X rays to staff members of the Warren Commission. It is inconceivable that this could have been done without the making of a single record. I understand that Mr. Kelley is still employed by the Secret Service, so perhaps he could be consulted on this point. In this connection, please note the "Statement" sent to Barefoot Sanders by letter dated Feb. 23, 1967. That statement purports to describe the "custody and possession" of the autopsy films by the Secret Service, but omits any reference to Mr. Kelley's exhibitions of this material, although Mr. Kelley was one of the signers of the statement. To this extent this statement is in conflict with the text prepared on June 14, 1966 which states "The X-ray films were used for the briefing of the Warren Commission's staff..." I would like to know on what basis

if not on some record or written documentation, this text was prepared after the fact by those who were not participants in or witnesses to the actual events described.

Another example of records that should exist concerns the photographs made during a later examination of the President's brain, described in the Supplemental Autopsy Report, Commission Exhibit 391, Secret Service Control No. 1221. These photos were delivered to Dr. Burkley, who apparently then delivered them to the Secret Service. Was there no receipt executed upon the delivery of this material to the Secret Service? I think any reasonable person would find it difficult to believe that the government would be so casual about the transfer of this vital evidence that it would not execute receipts to perserve a record of the chainoof possession.

I would also like to draw to your attention a Memorandum For File dated Feb. 13, 1969, prepared by Mr. Kelley and included in the materials that you sent to me. At the top of the first page of this document is written "item #9." This notation suggests that perhaps it is one in a series of related documents. If so, I would like the other "itmms." If not, could you explain the notation? I note that you were a participant in the meeting described in Mr. Kelley's memorandum, so to that extent you have personal, first-hand knowledge that may be of assistance in answering my request.

It is not my intention to burden you with difficult requests. Also--and I wish to stress this--I do not mean to point accusing fingers at you, Mr. Kelley, or anyone in the Secret Service. My aim is to collect every shred of evidence documenting what happened to the evidence of the Kennedy autopsy. I realize that men's memories fade with time, and that inevitably some records may be misfiled or their locations forgotten. I do feel, however, that such a state of affairs is not appropriate in the case of the records relating to a president's murder, and I hope that through my request I can not only further my own research but assist in the compliation of a complete archive essential to future historians.

I look forward to your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Howard Roffman